

## Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

NIC-01 OMB-01 NSCE-00 EUR-25 RSR-01 IO-13 /124 W

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R 280545Z AUG 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 621

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0919

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJ: PARTY CONGRESS REPORTING

REF: HONG KONG 8458 (NOTAL)

1. GENERAL SLACKENING OF ACTIVITY AROUND GREAT HALL OF PEOPLE, PRESENCE OF PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL PARTY BOSSES IN HOME BAILIWICKS (MOST RECENTLY SAIFUDIN IN SINKIANG AUGUST 26) AND RAPIDLY APPROACHING STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT POMPIDOU INCLINE US TO BELIEF THAT PARTY CONGRESS HAS SLIPPED UNTIL AT LEAST MID OR LATE SEPTEMBER. AS HONG KONG POINTS OUT, THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN CONGRESS PREPARATIONS UNNATURALLY PROTRACTED. HOWEVER, SPATE OF PREDICTIONS IN JULY AND EARLY AUGUST THAT CONGRESS WOULD BE HELD SOON, AS WELL AS CHINESE SENSITIVITY ON SUBJECT (REUTERS, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS CALLED BY MFA TO DENY, OFF THE RECORD, THAT THE AUGUST 19-19#MEETINGS WERE THE OPENING OF THE PARTY CONGRESS), ALL LEAD US TO BELIEVE THERE HAVE BEEN DIFFICULTIES IN FIXING FIRM TIMETABLE FOR THE CONGRESS.

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2. WHILE WE AGREE WITH HONG KONG'S ASSESSMENT THAT CHOU EN-LAI MAY BE RUNNING INTO STIFFER OPPOSITION ON VARIOUS POLICY QUESTIONS (I.E., EDUCATIONAL POLICY, CADRE REHABILITATION, ETC.) THAN ANTICIPATED EARLIER THIS YEAR, WE CONTINUE TO SEE THIS AS A DEBATE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EXISTING POWER STRUCTURE AND NOT NECESSARILY AS A THREAT TO CHOU'S POSITION. FOR EXAMPLE, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF VEILED ATTACKS ON THE REHABILITATION OF CADRE, THE PROCESS HAS CONTINUED APACE. MOST SPECTACULAR RECENT CASE IN POINT WAS REAPPEARANCE AUGUST 27 OF FORMER POLITBURO MEMBERS WU LAN-FU AND T'AN CHEN-LIN, ALONG WITH LONG ABSENT WOMEN'S FEDERATION LEADER SHIH LIANG. SIMILARLY, THE POST-CULTURAL REVOLUTION RESTORATION OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM APPEARS TO BE PROCEEDING DESPITE SNIPING ATTACKS FROM THE LEFT. IN SUM, WHILE THE PACE OF MOVEMENT TOWARD PARTY CONGRESS RATIFICATION OF CHOU'S CONTROVERSIAL POLICIES MAY BE UNCERTAIN, IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE POLICIES APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING.

3. THIS RAISES QUESTION OF DESIRABILITY OF OFFICIAL U.S. SOURCED COMMENTARY ON DIFFICULTIES CHOU MAY CURRENTLY BE ENCOUNTERING DURING THIS DELICATE PERIOD. WE HAVE IN MIND PARTICULARLY VOA HONG KONG CORRESPONDENT'S AUGUST 27 COMMENTARY ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH, IF READ IN PEKING AS REFLECTING U.S. ANALYSIS OF CURRENT CHINESE INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE, COULD BE UNHELPFUL TO MODERATE ELEMENTS WHOSE POLICIES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE PREVAIL, AND WHOSE LIFE ALREADY COMPLICATED ENOUGH.

BRUCE

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY LINE, PARTY MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** willialc  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973PEKING00919  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS BRUCE  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** HONG KONG 8458 (NOTAL)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** willialc  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <31-Aug-2001 by willialc>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PARTY CONGRESS REPORTING  
**TAGS:** PINT, CH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005